

English 403.001--Discipline of English                      Fall 2008  
Dr. Bill Bolin  
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## COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed primarily for those pursuing teacher certification in secondary English. Reading materials, discussions, and class projects all will address methods of teaching composition and grammar in secondary schools. Special attention will be paid to TEKS and the competencies of the TExES for secondary English.

### Required Texts

- Burke's *The English Teacher's Companion*, 3rd ed. (ISBN 0-325-01139-4)
- Haussamen's *Grammar Alive!* (ISBN 0-8141-1872-0)
- Latest review manual for TExES #131 (Secondary English), available as a pdf at <http://www.texas.ets.org/prepMaterials/>

You'll also want to access this site for MLA style:

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/557/01/>

And here is a link to the class webpage, where you will find handouts and other materials as those become available:

<http://eng403.wikispaces.com/>

## COURSE OBJECTIVES

- to encourage you to become familiar with activities within the discipline of English studies.
- to help you participate in those activities.
- to give you a wide array of theories to consider before and while teaching English.
- to challenge you either to question or to affirm what you think you already know about writing, about vocabulary, and about teaching English.
- to help you become familiar with the competencies of TExES and the elements of TEKS
- to guide you in examining, employing, and critiquing those competencies and elements in useful ways

## ASSIGNMENTS

**Exams:** You'll have a mid-term and a final, each covering roughly half of the semester. These exams will be designed to solicit richly detailed essay answers.

**Response papers:** In addition, you'll turn in 10 response papers (2-3 typed, double-spaced pages), addressing one or two points in the assigned reading on any particular day

and connecting that reading to one or more TExES competencies. The motivation here is not to summarize the reading but to elaborate on those one or two points and to connect them to other reading you've done or experiences you've had and to TExES. You'll decide what days you'll want to submit each response paper, but you may turn in only one at a time, based on the reading for that particular day.

**Discussion Starter:** Each of you will lead discussion in one of the issues in Burke's textbook. A separate assignment sheet is forthcoming.

**Paper:** You will write a paper (6-8 typed, double-spaced pages, including a bibliography) addressing one of any number of issues in English studies. A more detailed assignment sheet is forthcoming. The assignment sheet will include a description of the **paper proposal**.

All writing, unless otherwise specified, must be typed and double-spaced and must conform to MLA guidelines.

As a rule I do not accept late papers.

## EVALUATION

You have the opportunity to earn up to 200 points this semester. Here are the values of each assignment, as well as the point ranges for semester grades:

Assignment Values	Semester Grade Point Ranges
Response papers 50 pts. (5 pts. each)	180-200=A
Mid-term exam 30 pts.	160-179=B
Discussion Starter 30 pts.	140-159=C
Paper proposal 10 pts.	120-139=D
Paper 50 pts.	0-119=F
Final exam 30 pts.	

## ATTENDANCE

Regular attendance is important for several reasons, but it is especially important for you to keep up with the assignments in this class. The tentative calendar below offers only the most general description of activities; more detail will be provided in class as the semester goes on. If you are absent the day an assignment is due, you must call me at one of the two phone numbers above and make satisfactory arrangements for turning in the assignment. Failure to make *prior satisfactory* arrangements will result in your

forfeiting the right to turn in that assignment. As per university policy, excessive absences (three weeks' worth) will result in your being dropped from the course.

## TE<sub>x</sub>ES

Students who plan to teach English, Spanish, or English as a Second Language in Texas public schools must pass the appropriate state certification tests. The Department of Literature and Languages grants approval to take the content-area tests, subject to the policies described at this URL: <<http://faculty.tamu-commerce.edu/bolin/texas.html>>.

## ACADEMIC HONESTY STATEMENT

Instructors in the Department of Literature and Languages do not tolerate plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty. Instructors uphold and support the highest academic standards, and students are expected to do likewise. Penalties for students guilty of academic dishonesty include disciplinary probation, suspension, and expulsion. (Texas A&M University-Commerce Code of Student Conduct 5.b[1,2,3])

## CALENDAR

M Aug. 25	Introduction to class
W Aug. 27	Burke, Intro; Haussamen, Vignette and Intro; Skim the TE <sub>x</sub> ES manual
M Sept. 1	Burke, chapters 1-2
W Sept. 3	Burke, Chapter 3
M Sept. 8	Burke, Chapter 4; <b>Discussion starter on <i>teaching literature</i> due</b>
W Sept. 10	Burke, Chapter 4 (cont.)
M Sept. 15	Burke, Chapter 5; <b>Discussion starter on <i>teaching vocabulary</i> due</b>
W Sept. 17	Burke, Chapter 6; <b>Discussion starter on <i>teaching grammar</i> due</b>
M Sept. 22	Haussamen, Part I
W Sept. 24	Haussamen, Part II
M Sept. 29	Burke, Chap. 7; <b>Discussion starter on <i>teaching writing</i> due</b>
W Oct. 1	Burke, Chap. 7 (cont.)
M Oct. 6	Burke, Chap. 10; <b>Discussion starter on <i>curriculum design</i> due</b>
W Oct. 8	Burke, Chap. 11; <b>Discussion starter on <i>assessment</i> due</b>

M Oct. 13	Midterm Exam
W Oct. 15	Burke, Chap. 12; <b>Discussion starter on <i>digital literacy</i> due</b>
M Oct. 20	Burke, Chap. 13; <b>Discussion starter on <i>media literacy</i> due</b>
W Oct. 22	Burke, Chap. 15; <b>Discussion starter on <i>service learning</i> due</b>
M Oct. 27	Burke, Chap. 16; <b>Discussion starter on <i>special needs</i> due</b>
W Oct. 29	Burke, Chap. 17; <b>Discussion starter on <i>gendered language</i> due</b>
M Nov. 3	Burke, Chap. 18; <b>Discussion starter on <i>multiculturalism</i> due</b>
W Nov. 5	Burke, Chap. 19; <b>Discussion starter on <i>ethics in the classroom</i> due</b>
M Nov. 10	Burke, Chap. 20; <b>Discussion starter on <i>teaching AP and Honors</i> due</b>
W Nov. 12	Burke, Chap. 21; <b>Discussion starter on <i>teaching and the law</i> due</b>
M Nov. 17	Plagiarism readings (on the class wiki)
W Nov. 19	Plagiarism readings (on the class wiki)
M Nov. 24	Papers due; seminar on papers
W Nov. 26	Thanksgiving break
M Dec. 1	Burke, chapters 22-23
W Dec. 3	Burke, Chapter 27
F Dec. 12	Final exam submitted by 12:30 pm.

**Students with Disabilities:**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

**Office of Student Disability Resources and Services**  
**Texas A&M University-Commerce**  
**Halladay Student Services Building**  
**Room 303 A/D**  
**Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835**  
**Fax (903) 468-8148**

[StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu](mailto:StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu)

*All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See Student's Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct)*

